

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13. (new) Device for supplying single articles provided with a head and stick, such as lollipops, to be packed in bags, comprising a supply station for the articles in a disorderly flow, a discharge station for discharge of the articles in an orderly flow for further processing or treatment in the packaging process, a distribution disc connecting to the supply station and the discharge station and having a series of holes at its circumference for accommodation of the heads of the articles, means for urging the heads of the articles in the holes, a retainer for keeping down the sticks of the articles the heads of which have been accommodated in the holes, during the movement of the distribution disc from the supply station to the discharge station, the holes being vertically continuous and the retainer for keeping down ending at the location of the discharge station and being absent at the location of the discharge station, the discharge station being placed vertically underneath the distribution disc.

14. (new) Device according to claim 13, the discharge station being placed above the supply tube of a vertical form-fill-seal machine.

15. (new) Device according to claim 14, the supply station connecting to or vertically -at least partially-coinciding with the discharge station in circumferential direction of the distribution disc.

16. (new) Device according to claim 14, the supply device being placed on the form-fill-seal machine in a manner so as to be adjustable in height.

17. (new) Device according to claim 14, the discharge station being placed on the form-fill-seal machine in a manner so as to be adjustable in height.

18. (new) Device according to claim 13, the disc at the outer edge being provided with radial slits for accommodation of the sticks, which slits connect to the holes.

19. (new) Device according to claim 13, the means for keeping down being positioned for keeping down the sticks radially outwards with respect to the distribution disc.

20. (new) Device according to claim 19, the means for keeping down comprising a fixed rod positioned at the circumference of the distribution disc.

21. (new) Device according to claim 13, further comprising means for bringing the sticks into a substantially horizontal position on the distribution disc.

22. (new) Vertical form-fill-seal machine having an upright fill or supply tube over which a foil tubing is guided downwards, having transverse sealing means placed immediately beneath the fill tube, the machine further comprising at least one supply device for singled articles such as lollipops, placed above the fill tube, the machine being furthermore provided with a foil tubing drive for downward driving the foil tubing along the fill tube and furthermore provided with a sensor for noticing the passage in the fill tube of an article dispensed by the discharge station, which sensor is functionally connected to a central control unit of the machine, which controls the foil tubing drive and the transverse sealing jaws, also depending on the signal of the sensor.

23. (new) Vertical form-fill-seal machine according to claim 22, comprising a device for feeding single articles provided with a head and stick, such as lollipops, to be packed in bags,

having a supply station for the articles in a disorderly flow, a discharge station for discharge of the articles in an orderly flow for further processing or treatment in the form-fill-seal machine, a distribution disc connecting to the supply station and the discharge station and having a series of holes at its circumference for accommodation of the heads of the articles, means for urging the heads of the articles in the holes, a retainer for keeping down the sticks of the articles the heads of which have been accommodated in the holes, during the movement of the distribution disc from the supply station to the discharge station, the holes being vertically continuous and the retainer for keeping down ending at the location of the discharge station and being absent at the location of the discharge station, the discharge station being placed vertically underneath the distribution disc and above the fill tube.

24. (new) Method for packing single articles provided with a head and a stick, such as lollipops, in bags, by means of a form-fill-seal machine having a fill tube, the articles being fed by means of a supply device having a supply station for the articles in a disorderly flow, a discharge station for discharge of the articles in an orderly flow, a distribution disc connecting to the supply station and the discharge station and having a series of holes at its circumference for accommodation of the heads of the articles, means for urging the heads of the articles

in the holes, means for keeping down the sticks of the articles the heads of which have been accommodated in the holes, during the movement of the distribution disc from the supply station to the discharge station, the holes being vertically continuous and the means for keeping down ending at the location of the discharge station and being absent at the location of the discharge station, at the discharge station the fill tube being placed vertically underneath the distribution disc for receiving the discharged articles.

25. (new) Method according to claim 24, wherein the articles are supplied with their head in the front.

26. (new) Method for packing single articles provided with a head and a stick, such as lollipops, in bags, by means of a form-fill-seal machine having a fill tube, wherein a foil tubing is guided downwards over an upright fill or supply tube, wherein transverse seals are made in the foil tubing by means of transverse sealing means placed immediately beneath the fill tube, the machine further comprising at least one supply device for the supply of singled articles, such as lollipops, to the fill tube, the foil tubing being driven downward by a foil tubing drive active along the fill tube, wherein the passage in the fill tube of an article supplied by the supply device is noticed by a sensor, which sensor is functionally connected to a central

control unit of the machine, wherein the control unit controls the foil tubing drive and the transverse sealing jaws, also depending on the signal of the sensor.